Taylor. It was not Nelly alone whom Tom Taylor fathered.
He adopted tlie whole family.

At Lavender Sweep, with the horse-chestnut blossoms strewing the drive and making it look like a tessellated pavement, all of us were always welcome, and Tom Taylor would often come to our house and ask mother to grill him a bone! Such intimate friendships are seldom possible in our busy profession, and there was never another Tom Taylor in my life.

When we were not in London and could not go to Lavender Sweep to see him, he wrote almost daily to us. He was angry when other people criticised me, but he did not spare criticism himself.

[11] Don't be Nelly Know-all," I remember his saying once. " *I* saw you floundering out of your depth to-night on the subject of butterflies I The man to whom you were talking is one of the greatest entomologists in Europe, and must have seen through you. at once/*

When William Black's "Madcap Violet" was published, common report said that the heroine had been drawn from Ellen Terry, and some of the reviews made Taylor furious.

" It's disgraceful! I shall deny it. Never will I let it be said of you that you could conceive any vulgarity,. I shall write and contradict it. Indiscreet, high-spirited, full of surprises, you may be, hut vulgar—never! I shall write at once."

" Don't do that/' I said. " Can't you see that the author hasn't described me, but only me in * New Men and Old Acres' ? " As this was Tom Taylor's own

play, his rage against " Madcap Violet " was very funny I " There am I, just as you wrote it. My actions, manners, and clothes in the play are all reproduced. You ought to feel pleased, not angry.'[1]